

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 7, 9 to 12, 14 to 23, 27 and 28 are pending.

Claims 2, 4-7, 12, 14-16 and 18-21 have been amended as requested by the Examiner. Withdrawal of the claim objections to these claims is respectfully requested.

The Examiner objected to claims 1-7, 9-12, and 14-23 under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious having regard to Bechtold et al ("Bechtold") in view of Burdette. The pending independent Claims, claims 1 and 14, have been amended. Applicants respectfully submit that amended claims 1 and 14, and their dependent claims, are patentably distinguishable from the cited references for at least the following reasons.

Claims 1 and 14, as amended, each recite a jig assembly that supports a plurality of probes. The recited jig assembly comprises a central shaft, a plurality of collars each mounted on and independently rotatable about the central shaft, and a plurality of adjustable supports each attached to one of said collars. Each one of the ultrasonic treatment probes is mounted on one of the supports. The collars and supports are adjustable to focus the ultrasonic treatment probes onto a con-focal region. The ultrasonic treatment probes can then be moved together by moving the central shaft to sight a target, while remaining focused onto the con-focal region. Conveniently, the recited jig assembly allows independent but coordinated manipulation of the ultrasonic treatment probes.

Bechtold discloses a single transducer 28 supported by mechanical adjustment shafts 41 (see e.g. col. 5, ll. 45-55 and Fig. 1 of Bechtold). Burdette discloses a cylindrical transducer array 32 disposed on the inner wall of a cylindrical housing 46 (see e.g. col. 3, ll. 27-28 of Burdette). The cited references, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest a jig

assembly as recited in current claim 1 or 14 in the present application. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that current claims 1 and 14, and claims dependent therefrom directly or indirectly, are not obvious over the cited references.

Therefore, withdrawal of the obvious rejection is respectfully requested.

New claims 27 and 28 are presented for consideration by the Examiner. New claim 27 incorporates subject matter of former claim 1 and a jig assembly. New Claim 28 incorporates subject matter of former claim 14 and a jig assembly. It is believed that claims 27 and 28 are also patentably distinguishable from the cited art as the cited art, either alone or in combination, fails to disclose the jig assembly as recited each of claims 27 and 28.

It is believed that no new matter has been added by this amendment.

In view of the above, favorable consideration and allowance of this application are requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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